

A circular black ink stamp from the Office of Intellectual Property (OIP). The text "OIP" is at the top, "JAN 02 2004" is in the center, and "PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE" is written along the bottom curve.

In response to the restriction requirement of December 18, 2003, Applicants hereby elects Group I, Claims 1-28 and 42-45, drawn to a WDM transmission system that is comprised of transmitters for transmission of optical signals, multiplexing of the optical signal, propagation of optical signals, demultiplexing of optical signals, and reception of optical signals. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner use his discretion under 35 U.S.C. §121 and withdraw the restriction